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ZNY SSSSS ZOC STATE ZZH
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DE RUEHML #8940/01 3370223
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
Z 030223Z DEC 89 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 5089
INFO RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
RUHJWYA/13THAF CLARK AB RP IMMEDIATE
RUHGSJA/USCINCPACREP PHILIPPINES SUBIC BAY RP IMMEDIATE
RUMJCB/AMCONSUL CEBU IMMEDIATE 6337
BT

~~SECRET~~ MANILA 38940

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USCINCPAC ALSO FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, ASEC, CASC, RP
SUBJ: SITREP 21: ATTEMPTED COUP IN MANILA, AS OF 1030
DECEMBER 3.

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ACCORDING TO SECDEF RAMOS THE TACTICAL SITUATION AT
CAMP AQUINALDO AS 0845 IS IMPROVING. RAMOS TOLD THE

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SECRET

STATE

89 4922621

SSZ

PAGE 002

TOR: 030241Z DEC 89

NC 4922621

MANILA 38940

AMBASSADOR THAT HIS FORCES HAVE DESTROYED TWO REBEL ARMORED VEHICLES, HAVE CAPTURED A MARINE REBEL LEADER, AND ARE LAUNCHING COUNTER-ATTACKS AGAINST REMAINING REBEL STRONGPOINTS IN AND AROUND CAMP AGUINALDO. RAMOS ADDED THAT HE HAS TAKEN DELIVERY OF THE FIRST TRANCHE OF 105 LAW'S (LIGHT ANTI-TANK WEAPONS). RAMOS STATED FURTHER THAT THERE ARE REPORTS OF REBEL STRAGGLERS FROM AGUINALDO HEADING TOWARD THE QUIRINO HOSPITAL AREA IN QUEZON CITY. RADIO REPORTS CALIM CAMP AGUINALDO IS UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

3. AT ABOUT 0800, RADIO REPORTS GEN. MARCELO BLANDO, 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER LEADING ABOUT 800 TROOPS OF THE 701ST BRIGADE, HAS GONE OVER TO THE REBEL SIDE (SEE SITREP 18, MANILA 38927). AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY SOURCE SAYS RAM HAS DESCRIBED HIM AS THE NEW HEAD OF THE AFP, BUT GEN. DE VILLA DOUBTS VERACITY OF MEDIA REPORTS. HOWEVER, REBEL TROOPS HAVE APPEARED AT HIS UNIT'S VICINITY.

4. AT 0925, BG ALEJANDRO GALIDO, SOUTHERN LUZON AREA COMMANDER (SOLCOM), CALLED THE EMBASSY TO ASK THAT THE U.S. STOP INTERFERING IN THE COUP EVENTS. GALIDO, WHO SAID HE WAS CALLING FROM LUCENA CITY IN QUEZON PROVINCE SOUTHEAST OF MANILA, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE IS ON THE REBEL SIDE. HE ACCUSED AMERICANS OF FLYING SIKORSKY HELICOPTERS AND JET AIRCRAFT THAT ARE ATTACKING REBEL FORCES. HE SAID THAT IF THE U.S. DID NOT CEASE ITS SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT FORCES "WE WILL KILL AMERICANS." GALIDO CLAIMED THAT EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE AFP GENERALS ARE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "BAD" AND "CORRUPT." GALIDO CLAIMED THAT HE AND HIS REBEL ASSOCIATES HAVE NO ARGUMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES AND ONLY WANT A CLEAN GOVERNMENT IN MANILA. HE REITERATED HIS DEMAND THAT THE U.S. CEASE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT SIDE BECAUSE "WE DO NOT WANT TO TAKE VENGEANCE AGAINST AMERICANS." HE EMPHASIZED TO GALIDO IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT AQUINO AND THAT HER FORCIBLE REMOVAL FROM POWER WOULD BRING AN IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF ALL U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES. GALIDO WAS UNMOVED AND SIMPLY REPEATED HIS EARLIER DEMANDS.

SECRET

SECRET

STATE

89 4922621 SSZ

PAGE 003

NC 4922621

TOR: 030241Z DEC 89

MANILA 38940

5. BG GALIDO OSTENSIBLY CONTROLS THE 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION. HOWEVER, THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE 2ND DIVISION OR ELEMENTS OF IT ARE ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE -- AT LEAST AT THIS TIME. ADDITIONALLY, IT APPEARS THAT THE PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY REGIONAL COMMAND (RECOM) IV AND V, ALSO SUBORDINATE TO GALIDO, ARE ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE. HOWEVER, GALIDO ALSO HAS UNDER HIS DIRECTION A SCOUT RANGER BATTALION WHO MAY BE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT REBEL FORCES.

6. AT ABOUT 0700 IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT ACCESS TO THE RESIDENTIAL VILLAGES WAS BASICALLY UNIMPEDED. (EARLIER REPORTS OF ACTUAL BLOCKAGE OF THE GATES APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TECHNICALLY IN ERROR; THE GATES WERE PHYSICALLY OPEN, BUT THE ROADS IMMEDIATELY OUTSIDE WERE BLOCKED.) IN AN 0700 ADVISORY TO THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY, EMPLOYEES WERE INSTRUCTED TO REMAIN IN THE VILLAGES AND NOT TO PROCEED TO THE EMBASSY WITHOUT EXPLICIT PERMISSION. WE HAD A CONFIRMED SIGHTING AT ABOUT 0515 OF 100 REBELS BEING DEBARKED AT THE MAGALLANES SHOPPING CENTER, WHICH SITS ASTRIDE THE EDSA, SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY, AND THE MAGALLANES VILLAGE. HOWEVER, AS OF 0700, THE OVERPASS WAS CLEAR OF REBEL ACTIVITY.

7. THE AIRPORT REMAINS CLOSED, AT LEAST UNTIL MIDDAY.

8. AT ABOUT 0945, CARDINAL SIN APPEARED ON TELEVISION CHANNEL 9. APPEARING SOLEMN AND CONCERNED, SIN ASKED FILIPINOS TO "CONTINUE TO GIVE SUPPORT TO OUR SOLDIERS WHO ARE VALIANTLY FIGHTING TO PROTECT OUR DEMOCRACY," BY GIVING THEM FOOD AND IN OTHER WAYS. HE REFERRED TO THE
S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 MANILA 38940

NOFORN

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ADVENT SEASON AND ADDRESSED THE REBEL TROOPS, PLEADING

SECRET

SECRET

STATE

89 4922621 SSZ

PAGE 004

TOR: 030241Z DEC 89

NC 4922621
MANILA 38940

WITH THEM TO SURRENDER AND SAYING THAT THEIR MISGUIDED
EFFORT HAD ALREADY RESULTED IN TOO MANY INNOCENT DEATHS.
HE URGED THEM TO "COME BACK TO GOD," SAYING SURRENDER
WOULD BE A GESTURE OF "GALLANTRY."

9. PRESIDENT AQUINO HAS JUST COMPLETED A CABINET
SESSION. SHE IS APPEARING ON TELEVISION. WE WILL REPORT
HER STATEMENTS AND CABLE TEXT.
PLATT##

END OF MESSAGE

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